

REMARKS

Upon receipt of the Office Action, claim 1-21 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. Of this, claims 1-21 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. Reconsideration of all currently pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 13-14 stand objected to in the Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all features of the base claim and any interleaving claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-7 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process results in an improper process claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 15-21 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 13, and 15-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 13 stand objected to for some informalities and insufficient antecedent basis. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 13 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-3, 8-12, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,086,380 to Chu et al. ("Chu"). Chu relates to an automated, self-operated, karaoke recording system. Applicant respectfully submits that Chu fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the features of independent claim 1, namely, generating an image by a computer, the image including an image of objects in a foreground and a background image. Additionally, Chu fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious combining the image formed by the computer with an obtained video image of a participant of a video program by superimposing at least the image of objects in the foreground on an obtained video image of the participant to produce an output video signal of a combined image.

In Chu, a user is provided with a selection of background scenes from which to choose and also with an option of having lyrics of a karaoke selection to be displayed or suppressed. From a computer keyboard located below a screen, the user selects a particular background from among a plurality of alternatively selectable, electronically stored background image scenes. Typically, the background scene involves a moving sequence that appears to be occurring directly behind an image of a face of the user.

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to have equated a user selection of a background scene and superimposing an image from a video camera onto an image of the background scene of Chu with combining an image formed by a computer with an obtained video image of a participant of a video program by superimposing at least the image of objects in a foreground on an obtained video image of the participant to produce an output video signal of a combined image as in claim 1.

It is thus respectfully submitted that, Chu teaches that the karaoke performer is guided by music being played and lyrics being displayed on the center of a viewing screen upon selection by the performer. In Chu, the option of having the lyrics of the karaoke selection displayed or suppressed is chosen before a recording. Once the recording has started, there are no possibilities to effect the displayed objects. However, according to independent claim 1, there is no need for music to guide a participant and the participant interacts with the image of the objects of the foreground. This feature of independent claim 1 is in complete contrast to the predetermined selection of background scenes as in Chu. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is thus not obviated by Chu and is therefore, in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as unpatentable over Chu is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-3 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-3 distinguish over Chu and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-3 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 relates to a system for creating video programs. Applicant respectfully submits that Chu fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the features of independent claim 8, namely, a means for combining images which superimposes an image of an object of a foreground on a video image of a participant. In contrast to claim 8, in Chu, a karaoke performer interacts with a background scene and performs in front of the background scene. In Chu, an option of having the lyrics of a karaoke selection to be displayed or suppressed is chosen before a recording. Once the recording has started, there are no possibilities to effect the displayed objects. However, according to independent claim 8, there is no need for music to guide a participant and the participant interacts with the image of the objects of the foreground. This feature of independent claim 8 is in complete contrast to the predetermined selection of background scenes as in Chu. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is not obviated by Chu and is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 as unpatentable over Chu is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 9-12 depend from and further restrict independent claim 8 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 8, dependent claims 9-12 distinguish over Chu and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 9-12 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 17 relates to a method for creating video programs for registering reactions of a user to an image displayed to the user. Applicant respectfully submits that Chu fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least one of the features of independent claim 17, namely, generating an image having transparent zones, wherein the generated image is formed by a computer. In Chu, an audio video mixer combines images from a video camera and a selected image scene from a video storage background hard disk such that the video images from the video camera are superimposed upon an image scene from the hard disk. In contrast to claim 17, in Chu, the transparent zones are formed in a participant's background. There is no teaching or suggestion by Chu of the transparent zones being formed by a computer as in claim 17. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is not obviated by Chu and is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 as unpatentable over Chu is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 18-19 depend from and further restrict independent claim 17 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 17, dependent claims 18-19 distinguish over Chu and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 18-19 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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